



WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Division of Workforce Solutions
Bureau of Workforce Programs

**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies**

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No.: 01-67

File: 2799

Date: 10/15/2001

Non W-2 ☒ **W-2** ☐ **CC** ☐

PRIORITY: Medium

SUBJECT: FOSTER CARE AND MA RE-DETERMINATION POLICY

CROSS REFERENCE: MA Handbook

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

PURPOSE

This memo describes policy and process information for re-determining Medicaid (MA) eligibility when a child loses MA coverage through Foster Care.

BACKGROUND

When a child leaves the foster care system, s/he is usually being reunited with family. The family may be already receiving MA or other public assistance through the county/tribal employment program or Economic Support (ES) agency. The family is required to report the return of the child to the household within ten days. If the Child Welfare worker is aware that the family is receiving public benefits, they may also report the change directly to the ES worker. In these instances the ES worker adds the child back into the case. In situations when the child's family is not already eligible for some public assistance program, the transition from Foster Care MA to county supplied MA will require a cooperative effort between ES workers and Child Welfare workers.

In other situations a child may be leaving the Foster Care system because s/he is turning age 18. These children may be eligible under Healthy Start or BadgerCare MA subprograms.

By federal regulation, an individual must have a separate and complete MA re-determination done based upon the data in that individual's case file or data available through third party sources, before MA eligibility is terminated.

DISCUSSION

ES agencies must develop a procedure with their local Child Welfare agencies to ensure that whenever a child is losing Foster Care MA eligibility, a separate re-determination of MA eligibility is completed by the ES agency before Foster Care MA is terminated. The only exception to this requirement is when a child dies or leaves the Wisconsin.

As part of the plan, it is expected that the Child Welfare agency will extend MA eligibility, using the Foster Care medical status code, until a re-determination of MA eligibility is done by the ES agency. A formal communication process must be established to assure ES agencies are made aware of all children leaving the Foster Care system, and provided with information necessary to re-determine eligibility.

If the ES agency does not have sufficient information to re-determine MA eligibility, the agency must request needed information from the individual or family. If the individual or family does not comply with a request for information after 30 days, MA can be terminated with adverse action notice since the family has a responsibility to cooperate during a re-determination.

CONTACTS

DES CARES Information and Problem Resolution Center

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Note: Email contacts are preferred. Thank you.